



# News Release

## WEST VIRGINIA DISTRICT

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## SBA's West Virginia District Office Announces 2015 Champion Award Winners

**CLARKSBURG, WEST VIRGINIA** — The U.S. Small Business Administration's West Virginia District Office is excited to announce their 2015 Champion Awards. SBA's West Virginia District Office celebrates all award winners during a luncheon at the Canaan Valley State Park & Conference Center in Davis, Wednesday, May 27 at 11:30 a.m. during the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Teaming to Win Conference. The awards luncheon is emceed by Secretary of State Natalie Tennant. Visit [sba.gov/wv](http://sba.gov/wv) for a list of the 2015 West Virginia District Small Business Week winners. Register for the event at [www.teamingtowin.org](http://www.teamingtowin.org).

"We have a great group of winners," states Karen Friel, SBA's West Virginia District Director. "Small businesses rely heavily on these resources to be successful and it is such an honor that we can take some time out of our busy schedules to highlight these champions that work tirelessly for the small businesses."

Champion Winners highlighted below.

### 2015 West Virginia Financial Champion of the Year – Huntington, WV



*Amber Wilson, SBDC Business Coach/Nominator; Jason Shepherd, 2015 WV Financial Champion of the Year;  
Karen Friel, SBA WV District Director*

Jason Shepherd, Peoples Bank Small Business Banker is the 2015 West Virginia Financial Champion of the Year. Shepherd was nominated for the award by SBA's Resource Partner – SBDC Center Manager – Amber Wilson. Jason has been with People's Bank since 2011 and currently serves the tri-state area – encompassing Ohio, West Virginia, and Eastern Kentucky. Jason works with owner-managed businesses on cash management issues and lending needs. He provides support and resources in areas where owners may lack a particular expertise like ideas to grow the business; improve cash flow; reduce inefficiencies or cooperation challenges; and marketing sounding board.

Shepherd was recently inducted into the 2013 President's Club Award at Peoples Bank in April 2014, a program that recognizes individual achievements for its most committed, local, enthusiastic and productive

associates. Shepherd was one of the first Small Business Bankers within the company to achieve this award since its inception in 2011.

Shepherd currently serves as an active member of Generation Huntington, Ashland Ambassador, and newly elected board member of small business incubator Unlimited Future Inc, and Leadership Tri State, just to name a few. In addition to his commitment in the community, Jason and Peoples Bank have contributed to organizations that facilitate training and development. While statistically Jason is impressive, most importantly his clients have great things to say about their experience with him. Letter after letter showed his willingness to go over and beyond his banking role to help them with industry trends and IBIS research, advice on management, and resources available to their business.

### **2015 West Virginia Minority Small Business Champion of the Year – Saint Albans, WV**



*Sandra Moss, 2015 WV Minority Champion of the Year; Karen Frie, SBA WV District Director*

Sandra Moss, Vice President of Black Business Association Supporting Entrepreneurs (BBASE), is the 2015 West Virginia Minority Small Business Champion of the Year. Moss was nominated by Herbert Henderson Office of Minority Affairs, Executive Director – Dr. Carolyn Stuart.

Moss saw the need in West Virginia to unite Black and minority business owners, and co-founded BBASE. The organization began as an online organization and has attracted out-of-state interest and network opportunities with monthly meetings. During monthly meetings Black and minority businesses gather for educational workshops and networking.

While helping many other minority small businesses, Sandra always dreamed of starting her own business and bringing to the world her unique style and ability to improve upon the ordinary with the incorporation of high fashion. When her husband continually came home with ink stains on his pocket Sandra created “The Pocket Clip” to add fashion to the standard plastic pocket protector.

## **2015 West Virginia Veteran Small Business Champion of the Year – Scott Depot, WV**



*Karen Friel, SBA WV District Director; L&R Catering (a business helped by Hopkins);  
Marsha Hopkins, 2015 WV Veteran Small business Champion of the Year*

Marsha Hopkins, Vice-President of Operations for Excalibur Services, LLC is the 2015 West Virginia Veteran Small Business Champion of the Year. Hopkins was nominated by SBA's Resource Partner – SCORE's Executive Director – Jerry Henderson.

Excalibur Services LLC, is a service disabled veteran owned small business located in Scott Depot, WV. Excalibur provides business development training and support services to Veterans and Service Disabled Veterans. These services include business planning, training, business plan completion, veteran business networking, obtaining business financing, and advocacy on behalf of Veteran businesses. Excalibur has collaborated with federal, state and private entities to provide these services.

Among other accomplishments Marsha has been a SCORE counselor for over 15 years and has 29 years of federal government experience with the US Postal Service where she primarily served in the positions of Director of Human Resources and Operations Manager.

## **2015 Women in Business Champion of the Year – Morgantown, WV**



*Sharon Stratton, SBDC Business Coach/Nominator; Terri Cutright, 2015 WV Women in Business Champion of the Year;  
Karen Friel, SBA WV District Director*

Terri Cutright, former Main Street Morgantown Executive Director, is the 2015 West Virginia Women in Business Champion of the Year. Cutright was nominated by SBA's Resource Partner – SBDC Center Manager – Sharon Stratton.

Cutright, a long time Morgantown resident, held the position of Executive Director of Main Street Morgantown for over 25 years – after helping hundreds of other small businesses. She recently moved on from the Main Street Organization to chase her dream of owning her own small business.

During Terri's time at Main Street Morgantown she earned more than 100 individual, committee and project awards, making it the most decorated Main Street program in the state. Under Terri's supervision the Morgantown Main Street District has had more than \$75 million in reinvestments, 326 new businesses open, and more than 3,100 new jobs created.

Terri has worked tirelessly to help all small business owners but always had a soft spot for women small business owners. She helped women business owners financially through efforts to establish grants such as the MSM Façade Grant, which is money to improve the outside of the business owner's building. Through her work with MSM, Terri has sponsored advertising promotions that focused on women owned businesses. She also mentored women business owners and directs them to the local Small Business Development Center and the First Microloan of West Virginia program.

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